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SUBJECT: LATVIAN ASSISTANCE IN RESPONSE TO CYCLONE NARGIS

REF: RIGA 245

1. Post recently sent in a demarche response stating the GOL was not planning to provide humanitarian assistance in the wake of Cyclone Nargis. However, we have subsequently learned the following about public and private efforts:

--On May 13, the GOL's cabinet approved a 20,000 EUR donation for Burmese disaster victims. The money will be donated to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

--The youth volunteer wing of the Latvian Red Cross has hosted several events to raise funds for victims.

--Lastly, there is a Latvian firm, GM Helicopters, that operates in Malaysia and Africa. The firm has pledged to help with transportation needs.

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